GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5193
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2005
NATIONAL WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Wasteland Development Board was constituted in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the objectives thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has taken some fresh steps for the development of wasteland; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard as on date?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA):

(a) and (b)The National Wasteland Development Board (NWDB) was set up in the Ministry of Environment and Forests in May 1985 with the mandate of tackting problems of land degradation, restoration of the ecological balance and meeting the growing demand for fuelwood and fodder. With a view to promoting development of non-forest wastelands, Department of Wastelands Development (DoWD) was created in the Ministry of Rural Development in July 1992 and NWDB was transferred to DoWD. In April 1999, DoWD was renamed as the Department of Land Resources (DoLR). The DoLR is administering three main programmes namely Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP) for development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis.

(c) and (d) No new scheme has been launched for development of wastelands/degraded lands; the ongoing schemes viz. IWDP, DPAP and DDP are being administered.